



AGENDA ITEM NO.

APPROVED BY

DEPARTMENT DIRECTOR

CITY MANAGER

June 18, 2009

FROM: PATRICK N. WIEMILLER, Public Works Director
Public Works Department

BY: SCOTT L. MOZIER, PE, City Engineer / Assistant Director
Public Works Department, Engineering Division

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Public Works Department, Capital Management Division

SUBJECT: APPROVE A PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH MARK THOMAS & COMPANY, INC. IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,818,084.00 TO COMPLETE THE CALTRANS PROJECT APPROVAL/ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENT (PA/ED) PHASE FOR THE VETERANS BOULEVARD INTERCHANGE AND GRADE SEPARATION PROJECT (PROJECT LOCATED IN COUNCIL DISTRICT 2)

A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FRESNO ADOPTING THE 90TH AMENDMENT TO THE ANNUAL APPROPRIATION RESOLUTION NO. 2008-162 APPROPRIATING \$110,000.00 FOR ENGINEERING CONSULTING SERVICES ON THE VETERANS BOULEVARD CAPITAL PROJECT

KEY RESULT AREA

One Fresno

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends the Council take the following actions:

1. Approve a professional services agreement with Mark Thomas & Company, Inc., in the amount of \$1,818,084.00 to complete the Caltrans Project Approval/Environmental Document (PA/ED) Phase for the Veterans Boulevard Interchange and Grade Separation Project.
2. Authorize the Public Works Director or his designee to execute the agreement on behalf of the City.
3. Adopt a resolution adopting the 90TH Amendment to the Annual Appropriations Resolution No. 2008-162, appropriating \$110,000.00 for engineering consulting services on the Veterans Boulevard capital project.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The 2025 General Plan and 1984 General Plan both included a six-lane superarterial roadway known as the Grantland Diagonal, renamed Veterans Boulevard, connecting from Grantland Avenue north of Ashlan Avenue to Herndon Avenue west of Polk Avenue. In June 1996, the Council adopted an Official Plan Line (OPL) for the Grantland Diagonal (Veterans Boulevard) which included a freeway interchange at Highway 99. The Caltrans process to construct a new freeway interchange consists of several phases: Project Study Report (PSR); Project Approval/Environmental Document (PA/ED), modification of the Freeway Agreement, acquisition of right-of-way, final design, preparing construction documents, utility relocation and actual construction, as well as development of funding sources.

On January 24, 2006, City Council approved an agreement with Omni Means, for professional services to prepare a Caltrans Project Study Report (PSR) for a freeway interchange at Veterans Boulevard and State Route 99. The PSR is now under final review with Caltrans with approval signatures anticipated in the next 60 days. The City is ready to proceed with the PA/ED Phase, consisting of the Project Report and the environmental document which will evaluate the project under both the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The PA/ED Phase will also include California Transportation Commission (CTC) approval of this new connection to Highway 99.

Staff has completed the consultant selection process and successfully negotiated a professional services agreement with Mark Thomas & Company for \$1,818,084.00 to prepare a PA/ED. Consultant selection was based on the ability to prepare a PA/ED and develop Plans, Specifications, Estimates, construction support, and pursue various funding sources. At this time, the City is proposing to proceed with the preparation of the Caltrans PA/ED. Funding is available through Measure C Tier 1 funds, in accordance with the Cooperative Project Agreement approved by the Council on March 31, 2009, and from Citywide Regional Street Impact Fees. Staff recommends approval of the consultant agreement and the amendment to the AAR in order that the project may continue to move forward.

KEY OBJECTIVE BALANCE

Approval of the Professional Services Agreement best balances the three Key Objectives of Customer Satisfaction, Employee Satisfaction and prudent Financial Management. The selected consultant has been determined by City staff, Caltrans and COG to be the most qualified firm to prepare the PA/ED and presents the best solution for enhancing Customer Satisfaction. The approval of this Agreement will enable the Public Works Department to commence a much needed freeway interchange project at Veterans Boulevard and Highway 99. Financial Management is enhanced by putting this City project in a strong position to receive other local, State and Federal transportation funding in a timely manner.

BACKGROUND

Transportation Planning: The City of Fresno 2025 General Plan and the 1984 General Plan Update included a superarterial roadway known as the Grantland Diagonal. This roadway, later

renamed Veterans Boulevard, is a planned six-lane facility beginning at Grantland Avenue north of Ashlan Avenue, running northeasterly and intersecting Highway 99 near the Bullard Avenue alignment, then continuing northeasterly to connect with Herndon Avenue west of Polk Avenue. In June 1996, the Council adopted an Official Plan Line (OPL) that firmly established the geometric alignment of the roadway. The OPL was designed in an effort to provide sufficient right-of-way for a standard partial cloverleaf interchange at Veterans/99, a bridge over Golden State, a bridge over the Union Pacific Railroad tracks, a connector ramp from Golden State to Veterans and the embankments or fill slopes associated with these elevated roadways. The Caltrans standard partial cloverleaf interchange consists of spread-diamond type off-ramps with traffic signals at the off-ramp intersections, two diamond-type on-ramps and two loop on-ramps, similar to the existing Shaw/41 and Herndon/41 interchanges. Veterans Boulevard is projected by the COG Regional Traffic Model to carry 66,900 vehicles per day in year 2025, the anticipated build-out of the current General Plan. Completion of Veterans Boulevard and the freeway interchange will provide many benefits to the community:

- Relief for the Highway 99 interchanges at Herndon Avenue and Shaw Avenue
- A corridor between two rapidly growing areas of the City (Northwest and the West Area)
- A major six-lane roadway with a grade separation across the Union Pacific Railroad tracks that will not suffer delays due to major freight train traffic
- Reduced delays and improved travel time for residents and commuters
- Greatly improved access for the existing and proposed commercial and light industrial development along the Regional Jobs Initiative (RJI) Golden State Boulevard corridor. This is also a Redevelopment Area.
- Providing economic development opportunities for the City of Fresno.

The Caltrans Process: The addition of a new interchange to a State Highway is a multi-step process typically involving 5 years or more, depending on available funding and the urgency of the new interchange:

- System and Regional Transportation Planning – This step has been completed. Veterans Boulevard is already included in the City's 2025 General Plan, the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) and the COG Regional Traffic Model.
- Prepare Project Study Report (PSR) to Determine Project Alternatives and Approve PSR – On January 24, 2006, City Council approved an Agreement with Omni Means, LTD for Professional Engineering and Transportation services to prepare a Caltrans PSR for a freeway interchange at Veterans Boulevard and State Route 99. The PSR is under final review with Caltrans with approval signatures anticipated within the next 60 days. Approval of the PSR by Caltrans will also represent conceptual approval of the new connection to State Route 99. The PSR includes traffic analysis, geometric layouts of alternative interchange layouts, cost estimates, preliminary environmental analysis, analysis of impacts upon and access to adjacent properties and businesses, and a comparison of alternatives, all in accordance with the Caltrans standard Project Development procedures. The latest draft PSR is attached.

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- Complete Detailed Environmental & Engineering Studies for Project Alternatives (Draft Project Report (PR) & Draft Environmental Document) – After the PSR is approved, the next step will be the concurrent preparation of the PA/ED. The PA/ED as required by Caltrans focuses in on the single preferred alternative for the interchange and takes the design to essentially a 30% level. The Public Hearing for the Environmental Document would then be conducted. The limits of the environmental document and preliminary engineering will be along Veterans Boulevard from Shaw Avenue to Herndon Avenue.
- Acquire the Necessary Right-of-Way and Relocate Utilities – Following the approval of the environmental document, acquisition of the necessary property can begin. Utility relocation will also be a time-consuming process.
- Conduct Detailed Project Design – With approval of the PSR, PR and the environmental document, preparation of construction plans, specification and bid documents can begin.
- Advertise, Construct and Complete Construction Project – The package will be put out to bid and the project will be constructed, resulting in a new road and freeway interchange open to traffic.

State Route 99 did not originally include an interchange between Shaw and Herndon Avenues due to the rural nature of the area. However, the addition of Veterans Boulevard as a freeway interchange would satisfy Caltrans minimum interchange spacing standards (1 mile) for urban areas since Veterans/99 would be 1.4 miles north of Shaw/99 and 1.0 mile south of Herndon/99.

Consultant Selection: In accordance with AO 6-19 the Public Works Department distributed requests for Statements of Qualifications (SOQ) to various consulting firms dated August 11, 2008. Consultant selection was based on the ability to prepare a PA/ED and develop Plans, Specifications, Estimates, construction support, and pursue various funding sources. At this time, the City is proposing to proceed with the preparation of the Caltrans PA/ED. Seven (7) consultant teams submitted Statements of Qualifications (SOQ). One consultant was non-responsive because they did not submit the SOQ before the required deadline. Staff reviewed the SOQ's and short-listed four (4) consultant teams to interview for the project: Omni Means, LTD, Mark Thomas & Co., PSOMAS Engineering and Nolte Engineering. Interviews were held on October 16, 2008, with the panel consisting of City, County of Fresno Council of Governments (COG) and Caltrans staff. Mark Thomas & Company, Inc., was unanimously recommended for selection by the panel, after which a scope and fee was negotiated by staff for the preparation of the Caltrans PA/ED.

The scope of services and PR budget are within the budget independently developed by City staff with assistance from Caltrans. Caltrans has reviewed the proposed scope of services for the PA/ED Phase and is in concurrence with the studies to be prepared.

Funding Opportunities: The new freeway interchange connection and grade separation over the Union Pacific Railroad is included in the Measure C Tier 1 program. It is estimated that the total cost of the 6-lane facility between Shaw Avenue and Herndon Avenue will be \$116 million, including \$80 million to construct the freeway interchange and grade separation, \$10 million to construct the roadway north of Bullard and south of Barstow, \$16 million for acquisition of

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56 acres of land in the vicinity of the interchange and \$10 million for the PS&E/right-of-way support costs. While staff was able to successfully work with the Fresno County Transportation Authority (FCTA), COG and the City of Clovis to include \$1.5 million of Measure C Tier 1 funds in the 2008/09 and 2009/10 fiscal years of the adopted Short-Term Regional Transportation Program, the remainder of the funding is not currently programmed in Measure C until the Mid-Term to Long-Term portions of the Measure C Extension. It is critical to develop the Veterans Boulevard project to a state of shelf-readiness to be able to compete for other funding sources; completion of the PA/ED will represent a major accomplishment toward this goal.

FISCAL IMPACT

The PA/ED Phase of the Veterans Boulevard Project will be funded through Measure C Tier 1 funds and Citywide Regional Street Impact fees and will have no impact upon the General Fund. Delays in starting the interchange project would add to total project costs in the areas of right-of-way and construction costs, as well as limiting opportunities to leverage local funds against possible Measure C, State (STIP) and Federal transportation funds.

PNW/SLM/MMJ/eam

Apprv Agr Mark Thomas & Co Vet Blvd Interch & Grade Sep Final 6-18-09

Attachments: Fiscal Impact Statement
Consultant Agreement
Resolution – AAR
Draft Project Study Report (PSR)

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

**PROGRAM: PW00338 – VETERANS BOULEVARD INTERCHANGE AND GRADE
SEPARATION PROJECT**

<u>RECOMMENDATION</u>	<u>TOTAL OR CURRENT</u>	<u>ANNUALIZED COST</u>
Direct Cost	<u>\$1,818,084.00</u>	<u> </u>
Indirect Costs: <i>Contract management, design coordination, etc., (estimated)</i>	<u>\$ 101,000.00</u>	<u> </u>
TOTAL COST	<u><u>\$1,919,084.00</u></u>	<u> </u>
Additional Revenue or Savings Generated	<u>-0-</u>	<u> </u>
Net City Cost	<u><u>-0-</u></u>	<u> </u>
Amount Budgeted (If none budgeted, identify source):	<u>\$1,919,084.00</u>	<u> </u>

Indirect cost consists of the following:

Project Management	\$25,000
Surveying	\$10,000
Right of Way Services	\$41,000
Misc	<u>\$25,000</u>
Total	\$101,000